

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

May 12, 2009

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR THE EIGHTH ANNUAL
CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND SPIRITUALITY
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to host and conduct the Eighth Annual California Conference on Mental Health and Spirituality at the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to expend funds to host the Eighth Annual California Conference on "Mental Health and Spirituality: The Journey to Wholeness," to be held on June 4 and June 5, 2009, at an estimated cost of \$42,500, fully funded by registration fees to be paid by participants and Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) one-time funds.
2. Authorize DMH to execute an agreement with the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities for space and catering services for the conference at a total estimated cost of \$16,100.
3. Authorize DMH to purchase food and beverages for County employees, consumers, and family members attending the conference as an exception to Section 5.40.097, Incidental Expenses, of the Los Angeles County Code, which limits such purchases to \$500 per occurrence and \$5,000 annually.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

These actions will permit DMH to host and conduct the Eighth Annual California Conference on "Mental Health and Spirituality: The Journey to Wholeness," to be held on June 4 and June 5, 2009, at the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities. In support of the mental health system in Los Angeles County, the conference will host workshops that are aligned with the DMH MHSA plans and the DMH goals of promoting hope, wellness, and recovery.

The conference is required at this time because it will help the Department accomplish elements of its State-approved MHSA plans. A major mandate of the MHSA is to reach unserved and underserved populations to support their recovery from mental illness. This conference provides an important opportunity to develop critical partnerships and learning that leverages the spiritual communities and spirituality, as a resource, to achieve that MHSA mandate. In addition, DMH is hosting the event for parties anticipated to attend from the seven counties surrounding Los Angeles County, including staff from county mental health departments. Accordingly, DMH's leadership in hosting this event is necessary to facilitate all parties' participation and will be instrumental to its success.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions are consistent with County Strategic Plan Goal 1, "Operational Effectiveness," Goal 2, "Children, Family and Adult Well-Being," and Goal 4, "Health and Mental Health."

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated total cost of the conference is \$42,500, of which approximately \$37,000 is anticipated to be paid by registration fees paid by participants. The remaining cost will be funded by MHSA one-time funds, the precise amount of which will be determined by the actual number of attendees, which is expected to range up to 375 for each day of the conference.

The budget for the conference includes printing and mailing of brochures and programs; food and beverage services; audio and visual services; honorariums for presenters; translation services; and other miscellaneous costs. Sufficient appropriation exists within the Department's Fiscal Year 2008-09 Final Budget to fund the estimated costs of the conference. There is no impact on net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Since 2002, DMH has held an annual one-day educational event to make faith leaders aware of mental illness, its impact on families, and the supporting role faith communities can play in helping with recovery. By collaborating with faith leaders in underserved and unserved communities, DMH is seeking to reduce barriers for people seeking mental health care.

Under the auspices of the California Institute for Mental Health, statewide efforts are underway to explore and support the role of spirituality as a resource for mental health consumers and families. As part of that effort, the educational forum is being expanded to a two-day conference to educate, train and empower mental health consumers, families, spiritual communities, and mental health providers to collaborate and help individuals and families struggling with mental illness.

Through four plenary sessions and twelve workshops, which will be presented by experts in the fields of mental health and/or spirituality, the conference is intended to increase awareness of spirituality as a potential resource in mental health prevention, early intervention, and recovery and to encourage collaboration among faith-based organizations, mental health service providers, consumers and families in combating stigma, and reducing disparities in access to services for diverse populations. Continuing education units will be offered to appropriate clinical disciplines.

Board approval of the recommended actions will enable DMH to execute agreements with the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities to guarantee space, catering services, and other support for the conference and provide DMH with the necessary authority to expend funds in support of the conference.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

DMH solicited cost estimates from three locations. The conference committee determined that the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities was the preferred location based on availability, size of accommodations, cost, and transportation needs. As the caterer for the facility, and in accordance with the proposed agreement with the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities, DMH will pay catering costs directly to Sodexo American, LLC for food and refreshments served during the conference.

In lieu of posting the opportunity on the County's web site, DMH solicited quotes from various venues that met selection requirements for the conference. In an effort to reduce costs associated with this conference, DMH opted to use the California

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Endowment Center for Healthy Communities because the space is free to government entities who host health related meetings. In addition, catering services at the venue offered through Sodexo America, LLC are less expensive than the other venues that were considered.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Approval of this action will not impact any other services. The conference will empower consumers, benefit the mental health system, and promote hope, wellness, and recovery for clients.

CONCLUSION

DMH will need one copy of the adopted Board actions. It is requested that the Executive Officer of the Board notify DMH's Contracts Development and Administration Division at (213) 738-4684 when this document is available.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJS', is written over the printed name of Marvin J. Southard.

Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

MJS:KM

c: Chief Executive Officer
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel